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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
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PRESIDING OFFICER'S
RULING NO. R2001-1/1

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

Postal Rate and Fee Changes

Docket No. R2001-1

PRESIDING OFFICER'S RULING
CIRCULATING PROPOSED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

(Issued September 27, 2001)

Order No. 1324 scheduled the first prehearing conference in this case to take place on Thursday October 25, 2001 at 10:00 am. Attached for participant consideration is a proposed procedural schedule.

The proposed schedule is intended to balance the Postal Service's desire for expedition and participants' need for sufficient time to fully understand the Service's request. It includes a break in the hearings on the Postal Service direct case. Discovery on evidence to be received between December 13 and December 20 would conclude on November 26, 2001. Discovery on evidence to be received between January 2 and January 16, 2002 would conclude on December 10, 2001. The receipt of testimony giving rise to complex discovery or procedural disputes would be scheduled during the second session of hearings.

In order for this schedule to operate successfully, Postal Service witnesses must be available during both hearing sessions. The dates for witnesses to stand cross-examination would be established shortly after the Postal Service files its report on the availability of witnesses and participants would identify the expected amount of cross-examination.

Participants may suggest alterations to the schedule appended to this ruling on or before October 24, 2001, and any suggestions will be discussed at the prehearing conference.

RULING

Participants may suggest alterations to the proposed procedural schedule on or before October 24, 2001.


George Omas
Vice Chairman

PROPOSED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES
DOCKET NO. R2001-1

September 24, 2001	Postal Service Request filed
October 25, 2001	Prehearing conference
November 13, 2001	Identify expected amount of oral cross-examination. Report on the availability of witnesses
November 26, 2001	Completion of discovery on a portion of the Postal Service's direct case
December 10, 2001	Completion of discovery on the remainder of the Postal Service's direct case
December 10, 2001	Trial brief of the Postal Service
December 13 – 20, 2001, and January 2 – 16, 2002	Hearings for cross-examination of the Postal Service's direct case (9:30 a.m. in the Commission hearing room)
January 30, 2002	Filing of the case-in-chief of each participant, including rebuttal to the Postal Service
February 27, 2002	Identify expected amount of oral cross-examination. Report on the availability of witnesses
February 27, 2002	Completion of discovery directed to intervenors and the OCA
March 11, 2002	Trial briefs of intervenors and the OCA
March 18 – April 5, 2002	Evidentiary hearings on the cases-in-chief of intervenors and the OCA (9:30 a.m. in the Commission hearing room)
March 27, 2002	Completion of discovery directed to the Service

April 15, 2002	Filing of evidence in rebuttal to the cases-in-chief of participants other than the Postal Service (no discovery permitted on this rebuttal evidence; only oral cross-examination)
April 24 – May 3, 2002	Hearings on rebuttal to participants' direct evidence 9:30 a.m. in the Commission hearing room)
May 13, 2002	Filing of initial briefs
May 23, 2002	Filing of reply briefs
June 4 – 5, 2002	Oral argument (if requested)